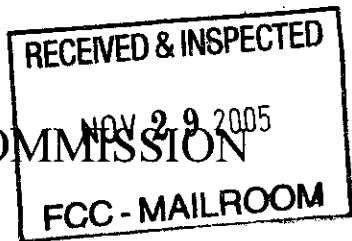


NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION



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John Curl, Utility Division Director
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November 23, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Attention: Wireline Competition Bureau

Re: State Commission Certification for Rate Comparability
CC Docket No. 96-45

Pursuant to section 54.316 of the FCC's rules, the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission has reviewed the comparability of residential rates in rural areas of the state served by non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) to urban rates nationwide, and certifies that the rates are comparable. The Commission makes this attestation by using the safe harbor provision and comparing the residential rates in rural areas served by Qwest, the only non-rural ILEC in New Mexico, to the nationwide urban benchmark of \$34.21. Qwest's total monthly charge for flat-rate service in rural areas is \$23.74. Therefore, Qwest's rural rates are reasonably comparable to urban rates nationwide.

Sincerely,

Susan Oberlander
Utility Economist
Telecommunications Bureau
505 827 6950

cc: Irene Flannery
Universal Service Administrative Company
2000 L Street, N.W. Suite 200
Washington D.C. 20036

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